500 More Buses Sold Castro by British Firm

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LONDON, June 22 (AP)—A new buses-for-Cuba deal was announced today by the same British factory that roused American ire with a similar sale six months ago.

The latest contract calls for 500 buses to be supplied to the Castro regime by Leyland Motors Ltd., at a cost of $14 million.

It was Leylands who last January sold 450 buses to Cuba for $11.2 million in the teeth of staunch opposition from the U.S. State Department and sections of American public opinion.

In Washington officials said the State Department, though not surprised by the new purchase, is seeking more information from Britain. The officials said the United States is still opposed to such sales.

The original contract afforded Cuba an option on 1000 additional buses. Today's order represented an exercise of part of this option.

As with the first part of the deal, the British government adopted an attitude of detachment, declaring that since buses are not on the list of banned strategic goods, the matter does not concern it.

Donald Stokes, the Company's managing director, told newsmen after the latest announcement:

"We are ordinary commercial people trying to do a commercial job. We are not doing it for any political motive but just carrying out a deal with a traditional customer."

Asked if he expected to run into any trouble with the Americans, he replied: "We never run into trouble with the Americans. They run into trouble with us."

The first 80 buses under the original deal have been completed and are due to be shipped next Sunday. So far, Leyland has had trouble finding British shippers willing to take the cargo in case it should attract American boycott reprisals to the to one report,